



project safe childhood



PRESS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

SHARON L. POTTER
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

1125 Chapline Street, Federal Building, Suite 3000 ! Wheeling, WV 26003 ! (304) 234-0100 ! Contact: Fawn E. Thomas, Public Affairs Specialist

March 15, 2007
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richmond Man Enters Guilty Plea To Attempted Internet Enticement of a Minor

MARTINSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — A 51 year old Richmond, Virginia, resident entered a plea of guilty on March 9, 2007, in United States District Court in Martinsburg before Magistrate Judge David J. Joel.

United States Attorney Sharon L. Potter announced that **RONALD L. PHILLIPS** entered a plea of guilty to one count of an Indictment charging him with attempting internet enticement of a minor from June 27, 2006, to July 30, 2006, in Romney, Hampshire County, West Virginia.

PHILLIPS, who is currently in custody, faces a maximum exposure of 10 years to life imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney **Thomas O. Mucklow** and was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Hampshire County Sheriff's Office.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General **Alberto R. Gonzales** created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafchildhood.gov/.

- END -

All Press Releases from this office can be found on our recently launched web site at www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvn/.